

A M B

*Teutonick, signifying a government, and Junius mentions a possibility of its descent from *ambas*; and others from *am* for *ad*, and *basus*, low, as supposing the act of sending an ambassador, to be in some sort an act of submission. All these derivations lead to write *ambassador*, not *ambassador*.]

A person sent in a publick manner from one sovereign power to another, and supposed to represent the power from which he is sent. The person of an ambassador is inviolable.

Ambassador is, in popular language, the general name of a messenger from a sovereign power, and sometimes, ludicrously, from common persons. In the juridical and formal language, it signifies particularly a minister of the highest rank residing in another country, and is distinguished from an *envoy*, who is of less dignity.

Give first admittance to th' *ambassadors*. *Shak. Hamlet.*
Rais'd by these hopes, I sent no news before,
Nor ask'd you leave, nor did your faith implore;
But come, without a pledge, my own *ambassador*. *Dryden.*
Oft have their black *ambassadors* appear'd
Loaden with gifts, and fill'd the courts of Zama. *Add. Cato.*

AMBASSADRESS. *n. f.* [*ambassadrice*, Fr.]

1. The lady of an ambassador.

2. In ludicrous language, a woman sent on a message.

Well, my *ambassadors*!

Come you to menace war, and loud defiance?

Or does the peaceful olive grace your brow? *Rowe's Penit.*

AMBASSAGE. *n. f.* [*from ambassador*.] An embassy; the business of an ambassador.

Maximilian entertained them with dilatory answers; so as the formal part of their *ambassage* might well warrant their further stay. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

AMBER. *n. f.* [*from ambar*, Arab. whence the lower writers formed *ambarum*.]

A yellow transparent substance of a gumous or bituminous consistence, but a refinous taste, and a smell like oil of turpentine; chiefly found in the Baltic sea, along the coasts of Prussia. Some naturalists refer it to the vegetable, others to the mineral, and some even to the animal kingdom. Pliny describes it as a refinous juice, oozing from aged pines and firs, and discharged thence into the sea; where, undergoing some alteration, it is thrown, in this form, upon the shores of Prussia, which lie very low. He adds, that it was hence the ancients gave it the denomination of *succinum*, from *succus*, juice. This opinion of the ancient naturalists is confirmed by the observation of many of the moderns, particularly Father Camelli. *Philos. Transact.* N^o 290. Some have imagined it a concretion of the tears of birds; others, the urine of a beast; others, the scum of the lake Cepheis, near the Atlantick; others, a concretion formed in the Baltic, and in some fountains, where it is found swimming like pitch. Others suppose it a bitumen trickling into the sea from subterraneous sources; but this opinion is also discarded, as good *amber* having been found in digging at a considerable distance from the sea, as that gathered on the coast. Boerhaave ranks it with camphire, which is a concrete oil of aromatick plants, elaborated by heat into a crystalline form. *Amber* assumes all figures in the ground; that of a pear, an almond, a pea; and, among others, there have been found letters very well formed, and even Hebrew and Arabick characters. Within some pieces of *amber* have been found leaves, and insects included; which seems to indicate, either that the *amber* was originally in a fluid state, or, that having been exposed to the sun, it was softened, and rendered susceptible of the leaves and insects. *Amber*, when rubbed, draws or attracts copiously in the dark. Some distinguish *amber* into yellow, white, brown, and black: but the two latter are supposed to be of a different nature and denomination; the one called *jet*, the other *ambergris*. The white is most valued for medicinal uses, and the yellow for being wrought into beads and toys, because of its transparency. *Trev. Chamb.*

Liquid amber, is a kind of native balsam or resin, like turpentine; clear, reddish, or yellowish; of a pleasant smell, almost like *ambergris*. It flows from an incision made in the bark of a fine large tree in New Spain, called by the natives *esfet*; but it hardens, as it grows older, into a solid form, and is brought to us in barrels. It is reputed an excellent balsam. *Chambers.*

If light penetrateth any clear body, that is coloured, as painted glass, *amber*, water, and the like, it gives the light the colour of its medium. *Peacock on Drawing.*

No interwoven reeds a garland make;
To hide his brows within the vulgar shade;
But poplar wreaths around his temples spread,
And tears of *amber* trickled down his head. *Addis. Italy.*

And fludded *amber* darts a golden ray. *Pope's Odyssey.*

AMBER. *adj.* Consisting of *amber*.

With fears, and fans, and double charge of brav'ry,

With *amber* bracelets, beads, and all this knav'ry.

Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew.

AMBER DRINK. *n. f.* Drink of the colour of *amber*, or resembling *amber* in colour and transparency.

All your clear *amber drink* is flat. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

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A'MBERGRIS. *n. f.* [*from amber and gris*, or *grey*; that is, *grey amber*.]

A fragrant drug, that melts almost like wax, commonly of a greyish or ash colour, used both as a perfume and a cordial. It is found on the sea coasts of several warm countries, and on the western coasts of Ireland. Some imagine it to be the excrement of a bird, which, being melted by the heat of the sun, and washed off the shore by the waves, is swallowed by whales, who return it back in the condition we find it. Others conclude it to be the excrement of a cetaceous fish, because sometimes found in the intestines of such animals. But we have no instance of any excrement capable of melting like wax; and if it were the excrement of a whale, it should rather be found where these animals abound, as about Greenland. Others take it for a kind of wax or gum, which distils from trees, and drops into the sea, where it congeals. Many of the orientals imagine it springs out of the sea, as naphtha does out of some fountains. Others out of the sea, as naphtha does out of some fountains. Others suppose it a sea mushroom, torn up from the bottom by the violence of tempests. Other, after it to be a vegetable production, issuing out of the root of a tree, whose roots always shoot toward the sea, and discharge themselves into it. Others maintain, that *ambergris* is made from the honey-combs, which fall into the sea from the rocks, where the bees had formed their nests; several persons having seen pieces that were half *ambergris*, and half plain honey-comb; and others have found large pieces of *ambergris*, in which, when broke, honey-comb, and honey too, were found in the middle. Some affirm it to be a true animal concrete, formed in balls in the body of the male spermaceti whale, and lodged in a large oval bag over the testicles. But, besides that it is not one spermaceti whale in a hundred, that is found to have *ambergris*, Neumann, chemist to the king of Prussia, absolutely denies it to be an animal substance, as not yielding in the analysis, any one animal principle. It may indeed be found in whales, but it must have been swallowed by them. He concludes it to be a bitumen issuing out of the earth into the sea; at first of a viscous consistence, but hardening, by its mixture with some liquid naphtha, into the form in which we find it. *Trevoux. Chambers.*

Bermudas wall'd with rocks, who does not know
That happy island, where huge lemons grow,
Where shining pearl, coral, and many a pound,
On the rich shore, of *ambergris* is found. *Waller.*

AMBER SEED, or *musk seed*, resembles millet, is of a bituminous taste, and brought dry from Martinico and Egypt. The Egyptians use it internally as a cordial. It gives a grateful scent to the breath after eating. *Chambers.*

AMBER TREE. *n. f.* [*Frutex Africanus ambram spirans*.] A shrub, whose beauty is in its small evergreen leaves, which grow as close as heath, and, being bruised between the fingers, emit a very fragrant odour. *Millar.*

AMBIDEXTER. *n. f.* [*Lat.*]

1. A man who has equally the use of both his hands.

Rodrigus, undertaking to give a reason of *ambidexters*, and left-handed men, delivereth a third opinion. *Brown's Vul. Err.*

2. A man who is equally ready to act on either side, in party disputes. This sense is ludicrous.

AMBIDEXTRETRY. *n. f.* [*from ambidexter*.]

1. The quality of being able equally to use both hands.

2. Double dealing.

AMBIDEXTROUS. *adj.* [*from ambidexter*, *Lat.*]

1. Double dealing; practising on both sides.

Esop condemns the double practices of trimmers, and all false, shuffling, and *ambidextrous* dealings. *LeStrange's Fables.*

2. Having, with equal facility, the use of either hand.

Others, not considering *ambidextrous* and left-handed men, do totally submit unto the efficacy of the liver. *Vulgar Err.*

AMBIDEXTROUSNESS. *n. f.* [*from ambidextrous*.] The quality of being *ambidextrous*. *Dict.*

AMBIENT. *adj.* [*ambiens*, *Lat.*] Surrounding; encompassing; investing.

This which yields or fills

All space, the *ambient* air wide-interfus'd. *Paradise Lost.*

The thickness of a plate requisite to produce any colour, depends only on the density of the plate, and not on that of the *ambient* medium. *Newton's Opticks.*

Around him dance the rosy hours,
And dawning the ground with flow'rs,
With *ambient* sweets perfume the morn. *Fenton to L. Gower.*

Illustrious virtues, who by turns have rose,
With happy laws her empire to sustain,
And with full pow'r assert her *ambient* main. *Prior.*

The *ambient* æther is too liquid and empty, to impel horizontally with that prodigious celerity. *Bentley's Sermons.*

AMBIGU. *n. f.* [*French*.] An entertainment, consisting not of regular courses, but of a medley of dishes set on together.

When straiten'd in your time, and servants few,
You'd richly then compose an *ambigu*;
Where first and second course, and your desert,
All in our single table have their part. *King's Art of Cookery.*

AMBIGUITY. *n. f.* [*from ambiguous*.] Doubtfulness of meaning; uncertainty of signification; double meaning.

2. Ambiguities

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With *ambiguities* they often entangle themselves, not marking what doth agree to the word of God in itself, and what in regard of outward accidents. *Hosker, b. v.*

We can clear these *ambiguities*,
And know their spring, their head, their true descent.

The words are of single signification, without any *ambiguity*; and therefore I shall not trouble you, by straining for an interpretation, where there is no difficulty; or distinction, where there is no difference. *South.*

AMBIGUOUS. *adj.* [*Ambiguus*, *Lat.*]

1. Doubtful; having two meanings; of uncertain signification.

But what have been thy answers, what but dark,
Ambiguous, and with doubtful sense deluding. *Par. Regain.*

Some expressions in the covenant were *ambiguous*, and were left so; because the persons who framed them, were not all of one mind. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

2. Applied to persons using doubtful expressions. It is applied to expressions, or those that use them, not to a dubious, or suspended state of mind.

Th' *ambiguous* god, who rul'd her lab'ring breast,
In these mysterious words his mind express'd;
Some truths reveal'd, in terms involv'd the rest. *Dryd.*

Silence at length the gay Antinous broke,
Constrain'd a smile, and thus *ambiguous* spoke. *Pope's Odyssey.*

AMBIGUOUSLY. *adv.* [*from ambiguous*.] In an ambiguous manner; doubtfully; uncertainly; with double meaning.

AMBIGUOUSNESS. *n. f.* [*from ambiguous*.] The quality of being ambiguous; uncertainty of meaning; duplicity of signification.

AMBIGUITY. *n. f.* [*from ambo*, *Lat.* and *logos*.] Talk of ambiguous or doubtful signification. *Dict.*

AMBIGUOUSLY. *adv.* [*from ambo* and *loquor*, *Lat.*] Using ambiguous and doubtful expressions. *Dict.*

AMBIGUOUSLY. *n. f.* [*Ambiguiquum*, *Lat.*] The use of doubtful and indeterminate expressions; discourse of doubtful meaning. *Dict.*

AMBIT. *n. f.* [*ambitus*, *Lat.*] The compass or circuit of any thing; the line that encompasses any thing.

The tusk of a wild boar winds about almost into a perfect ring or hoop; only it is a little written. In measuring by the *ambit*, it is long or round about a foot and two inches; its basis an inch over. *Grew's Myology.*

AMBITION. *n. f.* [*ambitio*, *Lat.*] The desire of something higher than is possessed at present.

1. The desire of preferment or honour.

Who would think, without having such a mind as Antipholus, that so great goodness could not have bound gratefulness?

and so high advancement not have satisfied his *ambition*? *Sidon.*

2. The desire of any thing great or excellent.

The quick'ning power would be, and so would rest;

The sense would not be only, but be well;

But wit's *ambition* length to the best,

For it desires in endless bliss to dwell. *Sir J. Davies.*

Urges them, while their souls

Are capable of this *ambition*;

Left zeal, now melted by the windy breath

Of soft petitions, pity and remorse,

Cool and congeal again to what it was. *Shakespeare, K. John.*

3. It is used with *to* before a verb, and *of* before a noun.

I had a very early *ambition* to recommend my self to your Lordship's patronage. *Addison.*

There was an *ambition* of wit, and an affectation of gayety. *Pope's Preface to his Letters.*

AMBITIOUS. *adj.* [*Ambitiosus*, *Lat.*]

1. Seized or touched with ambition; desirous of advancement; eager of honours; aspiring. It has the particle *of* before the object of ambition.

The neighbor'ing monarchs, by thy beauty led,
Contented in crouds, *ambitious* of thy bed;

Except but him thou canst not choose alone. *Dryd. Fables.*

You have been pleas'd not to suffer an old man to go discontented out of the world, for want of that protection, of which he had been so long *ambitious*. *Dryden.*

Trajan, a prince *ambitious* of glory, descended to the mouths of the Tigris and Euphrates, and went upon the ocean, where, seeing a vessel trading to the Indies, he had thoughts of out-doing Alexander. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

2. Eager to grow bigger; aspiring.

I have seen

Th' *ambitious* ocean swell, and rage, and foam,

To be exalted with the threatening clouds. *Shakespeare, J. Cæsar.*

AMBITIOUSLY. *adv.* [*from ambitious*.] In an ambitious manner; with eagerness of advancement or preference.

With such glad hearts did our despairing men

Salute th' appearance of the prince's fleet;

And each *ambitiously* would claim the ken,

That with first eyes did distant safety meet. *Dryd. Ann. Mir.*

Here Flecknoe, as a place to fame well known,

Ambitiously design'd his Sh—'s throne. *Dryden.*

AMBITIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [*from ambitious*.] The quality of being ambitious.

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AMBITUDE. *n. f.* [*ambitus*, *Lat.*] Compass; circuit; circumference.

TO AMBLE. *v. n.* [*ambler*, Fr. *ambulo*, *Lat.*]

1. To move upon an amble. [See AMBLE.]

It is good, on some occasions, to enjoy as much of the present, as will not endanger our futurity; and to provide ourselves of the virtuoso's saddle, which will be sure to *amble*, when the world is upon the hardest trot. *Dryden's Virgil, Dedication.*

2. To move easily, without hard shocks, or shaking.

Who *ambles* time withal?—A rich man that hath not the gout; for he lives merrily, because he feels no pain; knowing no burden of heavy tedious penury: him time *ambles* withal. *Shakespeare's As you like it.*

3. In a ludicrous sense, to move with submission, and by direction; as, a horse that *ambles*, uses a gait not natural.

A laughing, toying, wheedling, whimpering she,
Shall make him *amble* on a gossip's message,
And take the distaff with a hand as patient,
As ere did Hercules. *Rowe's Jane Shore.*

4. To walk daintily and affectedly.

I am rudely stamp'd, and want love's majesty,

To strut before a wanton *ambling* nymph. *Shakespeare, Ric. III.*

AMBLE. *n. f.* [*from ambulo*.] A pace or movement in which the horse removes both his leg on one side; as, on the far side, he removes his fore and hinder leg of the same side at one time, whilst the legs on the near side stand still; and when the far legs are upon the ground, the near side removes the fore leg and hinder leg, and the legs on the far side stand still. An *amble* is the first pace of young colts, but when they have strength to trot, they quit it. There is no *amble* in the manage; riding-masters allow only of walk, trot, and gallop. A horse may be put from a trot to a gallop without stopping; but cannot be put from an *amble* to a gallop without a stop, which interrupts the justness of the manage. *Farrier's Dict.*

AMBLER. *n. f.* [*from to amble*.] A horse that has been taught to *amble*; a pacer.

AMBLINGLY. *adv.* [*from ambling*.] With an *ambling* movement.

AMBROSIA. *n. f.* [*ambrosia*.]

1. The imaginary food of the gods, from which every thing eminently pleading to the smell or taste, is called *ambrosia*.

2. The name of a plant.

It has male sterculous flowers, produced on separate parts of the same plant from the fruit, having no visible petals; the fruit which succeeds the female flowers, is shaped like a club, and is prickly, containing one oblong seed in each.

The species are, 1. The marine or sea *ambrosia*. 2. Taller unfavoury sea *ambrosia*. 3. The tallest Canada *ambrosia*, with rough plane tree leaves. The first sort should be sown early in the spring, under a warm wall. The second and third are common American weeds, which should be sown upon a gentle hot-bed in the spring. None of them have much beauty to recommend them. *Millar.*

AMBRASIAL. *adj.* [*from ambrosia*.] Partaking of the nature or qualities of *ambrosia*; fragrant; delicious; delectable.

Thus while God spake, *ambrosial* fragrance fill'd

All heaven, and in the blessed spirits elect

Sense of new joy ineffable diffus'd. *Milton's Parad. Lost.*

The gifts of heaven my following song pursues,

Aerial honey, and *ambrosial* dews. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*

To farthest shores th' *ambrosial* spirit flies,

Sweet to the world, and grateful to the skies. *Pope.*

AMBRYS. *n. f.* [a word corrupted from *almshouse*.]

1. The place where the almoner lives, or where alms are distributed.

2. The place where plate, and utensils for housekeeping, are kept; also a cupboard for keeping cold victuals: a word still used in the northern counties, and in Scotland.

AMBS ACE. *n. f.* [*from ambo*, *Lat.* and *ace*.] A double ace; so called when two dice turn up the ace.

I had rather be in this choice, than throw *ambs ace* for my life. *Shakespeare, All's well that ends well.*

This will be yet clearer, by considering his own instance of casting *ambs ace*, though it partake more of contingency than of freedom. Supposing the posture of the party's hand who did throw the dice, supposing the figure of the table, and of the dice themselves, supposing the measure of force applied, and supposing all other things which did concur to the production of that cast, to be the very same they were, there is no doubt but in this case the cast is necessary. *Bramb. against Hobbes.*

AMBULATION. *n. f.* [*Ambulatio*, *Lat.*] The act of walking.

From the occult and invisible motion of the muscles in station, proceed more offensive lassitudes, than from *ambulation*. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii. c. 1.*

AMBUATORY. *adj.* [*Ambulo*, *Lat.*]

1. That which has the power or faculty of walking.

The gradient, or *ambulatory*, are such as require some basis, or bottom, to uphold them in their motions: such were those strange inventions, commonly attributed to Decalvus, or self-moving statues, which, unless violently detained, would of themselves run away. *Wilkins's Mathematic. Magic.*

2. That